

REMARKS

The present application was filed on January 10, 2002, with claims 1-25. Claims 1-25 remain pending.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks below.

Applicant initially notes that the Examiner has apparently not returned a signed copy of the first PTO-1449 form filed on January 10, 2002 in the first, rather than supplemental, information disclosure statement in the present application. Basically, Applicant has filed two separate information disclosure statements, each with its own PTO-1449 form, and the Examiner has returned a signed copy of only the second PTO-1449 form. A copy of the first PTO-1449 form is attached hereto, and Applicant requests that a signed copy thereof be returned by the Examiner in the next office communication.

The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 8, 14 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten each of these claims in independent form. Accordingly, claims 2, 8, 14 and 20, and their respective associated dependent claims 3-5, 9-12, 15-17 and 21-24, are believed to be allowable.

Independent claims 1, 13 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0046534 (hereinafter “Alldredge”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, on the ground that the cited reference fails to meet each and every element of these independent claims as originally filed.

Applicant also expressly reserves the right to swear behind the August 31, 2001 effective date of the Alldredge reference. Applicant is believed to have conceived the present invention prior to August 31, 2001.

Notwithstanding the traversal, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 13 and 25 to more clearly and distinctly present the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, each of the independent claims 1, 13 and 25 has been amended herein to specify that the end units have respective pluralities of terminals associated therewith, with a given one of the end units being configured to provide an interface between its associated terminals and the communication switch, and that the given set of session key lists associated with the originating end

unit comprises session key lists for respective terminals associated with that end unit. These claims as amended further specify that the given set of session key lists is generated in the originating end unit and transmitted from the originating end unit to the communication switch in conjunction with an authentication protocol carried out between the originating end unit and the communication switch.

Support for the amendments to independent claims 1, 13 and 25 can be found, for example, in FIGS. 1, 3 and 4 of the drawings, and in the associated text at page 4, line 25, to page 5, line 3, page 8, lines 1-7, and page 9, lines 1-20, of the specification.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that claims 1-25 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure(s): Copy of First PTO-1449 Form Filed January 10, 2002